



SANDY SPRINGS
GEORGIA

P&Z STAFF REPORT

Board of Appeals Meeting, August 11, 2020

Case: **V20-0026 – 1155 Mount Vernon Highway**
Staff Contact: Madalyn Smith (msmith@sandyspringsga.gov)
Report Date: July 31, 2020

REQUEST

Request for a Variance from Sec. 5.4.3.D., “Ground Floor Elevation,” of +/- 3.29’ (approximately 3.5’) below the required 0’ elevation minimum.

APPLICANT

Property Owner: DDR Perimeter Pointe LLC	Petitioner: Bridgette Ganter of Bowman Consulting	Representative: n/a
---	---	------------------------

SUMMARY

The applicant requests a Variance in the required ground floor elevation of +/- 3.29’ (approximately 3.5’) below the required 0’ elevation minimum. The applicant finds difficulty in developing the site in such a way that the elevation meets code on the western portion of the site while trying to achieve a gentle slope toward the interior lot entrance toward the eastern portion of the site. While it may be inconvenient, Staff’s opinion is that meeting the Code can be accomplished without hardship and that the site is not exceptional or extraordinary.

RECOMMENDATION

Department of Community Development

Staff recommends **Denial** of **Variance** V20-0026.

MATERIALS SUBMITTED AND REVIEWED

Materials:

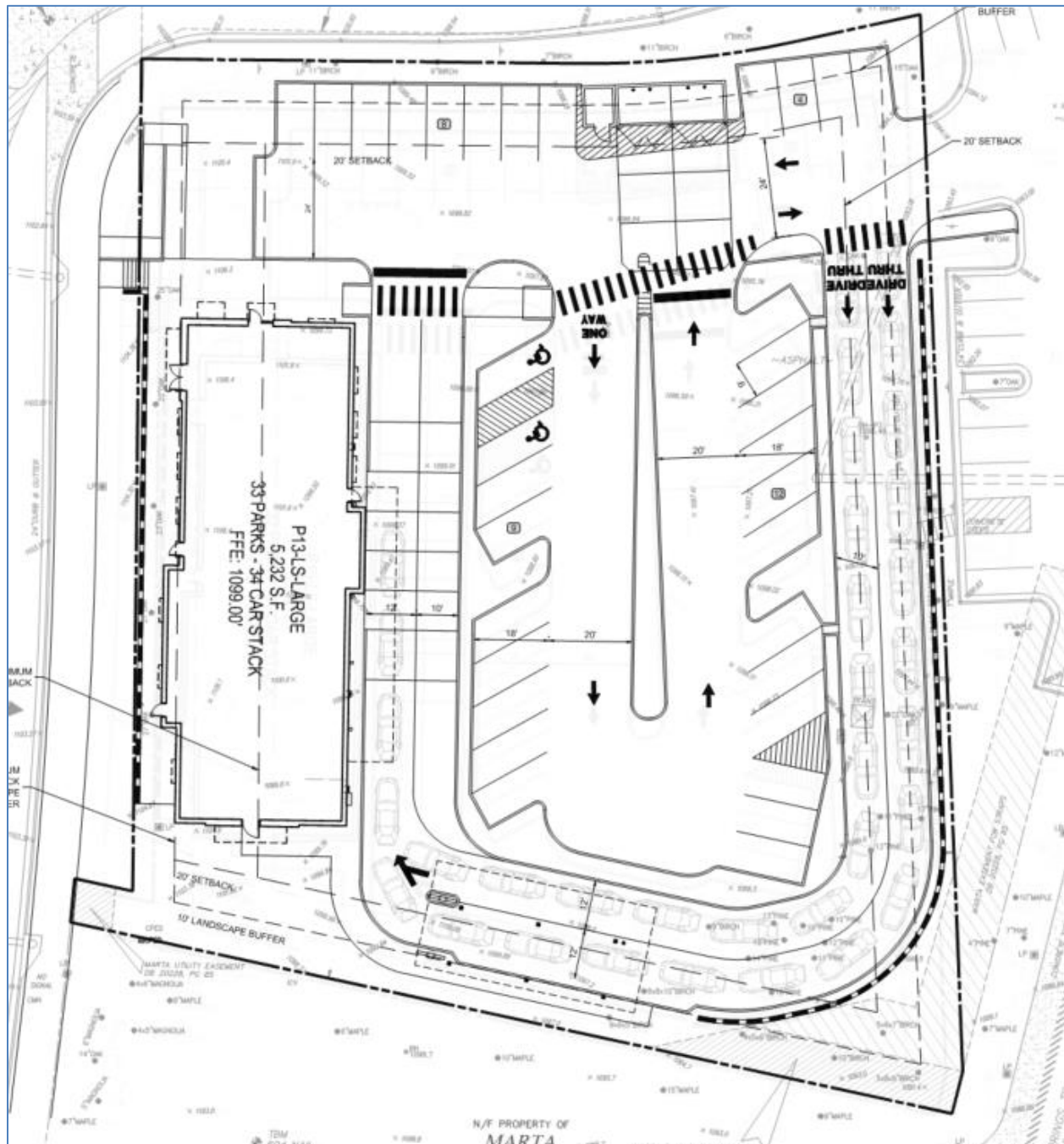
1. Application, received July 7, 2020
2. Survey prepared by GeoSurvey, dated October 24, 2019, and received July 7, 2020

Plans:

1. “Site Plan” and “Grading Plan,” prepared by Bowman Consulting, received July 7, 2020

PROPERTY INFORMATION	
Location:	1155 Mount Vernon Highway (Parcel ID # 17 0019 LL1200)
Council District:	3 – Burnett
Road frontage:	Approximately 200 feet of frontage on Mount Vernon Highway
Acreage:	Approximately 1.04 acres
Current Zoning:	PX-20/35 (Perimeter Center)
Existing Land Use:	Vacant Restaurant
Previous Zoning Case:	Rezoning RZ09-0006 was approved.
Character Area:	Perimeter Center

SITE PLAN (received July 7, 2020) (full size Site Plan in Package)



PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

The subject lot is located near the intersection of Mount Vernon Highway and Abernathy Road, adjacent to the Sandy Springs MARTA station. The applicant is proposing demolish the existing structure, a former restaurant, and construct a new restaurant and drive-thru.

The following images show the existing conditions of 1155 Mount Vernon Highway.







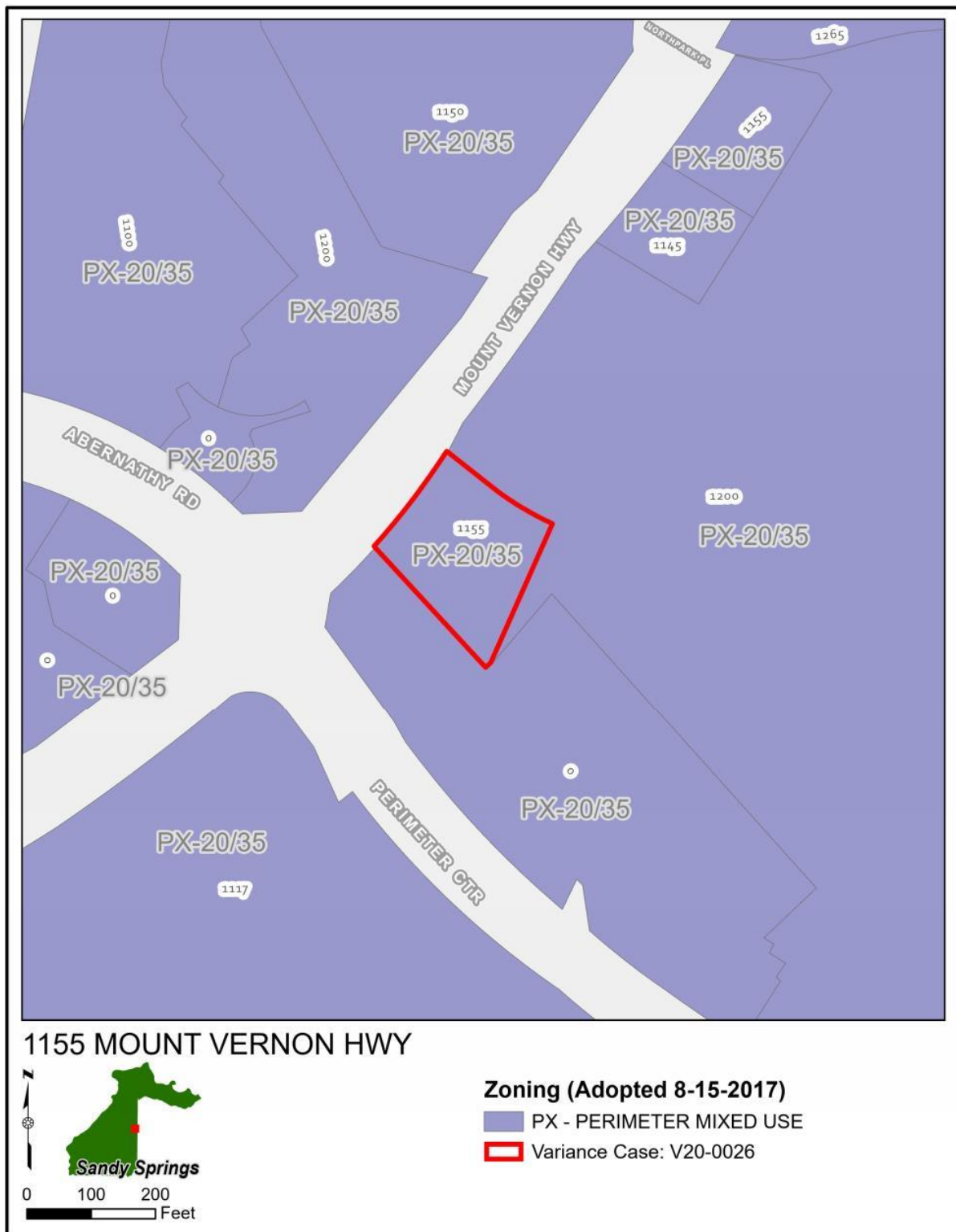
(Photographs from Google Maps)

EXISTING ZONING AND LAND USES OF PROPERTY IN THE VICINITY			
Location relative to subject property	Zoning / Land use	Address(es)	Land area (acres) (approximate)
North	PX-20/25 / Office	1200 Abernathy Road	3.37
East	PX-20/25 / Retail	1200 Mount Vernon Highway	27.94
South	PX-20/25 / MARTA Station	0 Perimeter Center	3.12
West	PX-20/25 / MARTA Station	0 Perimeter Center	3.12
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT			
--	PX-20/25 / Restaurant	1155 Mount Vernon Highway	1.04

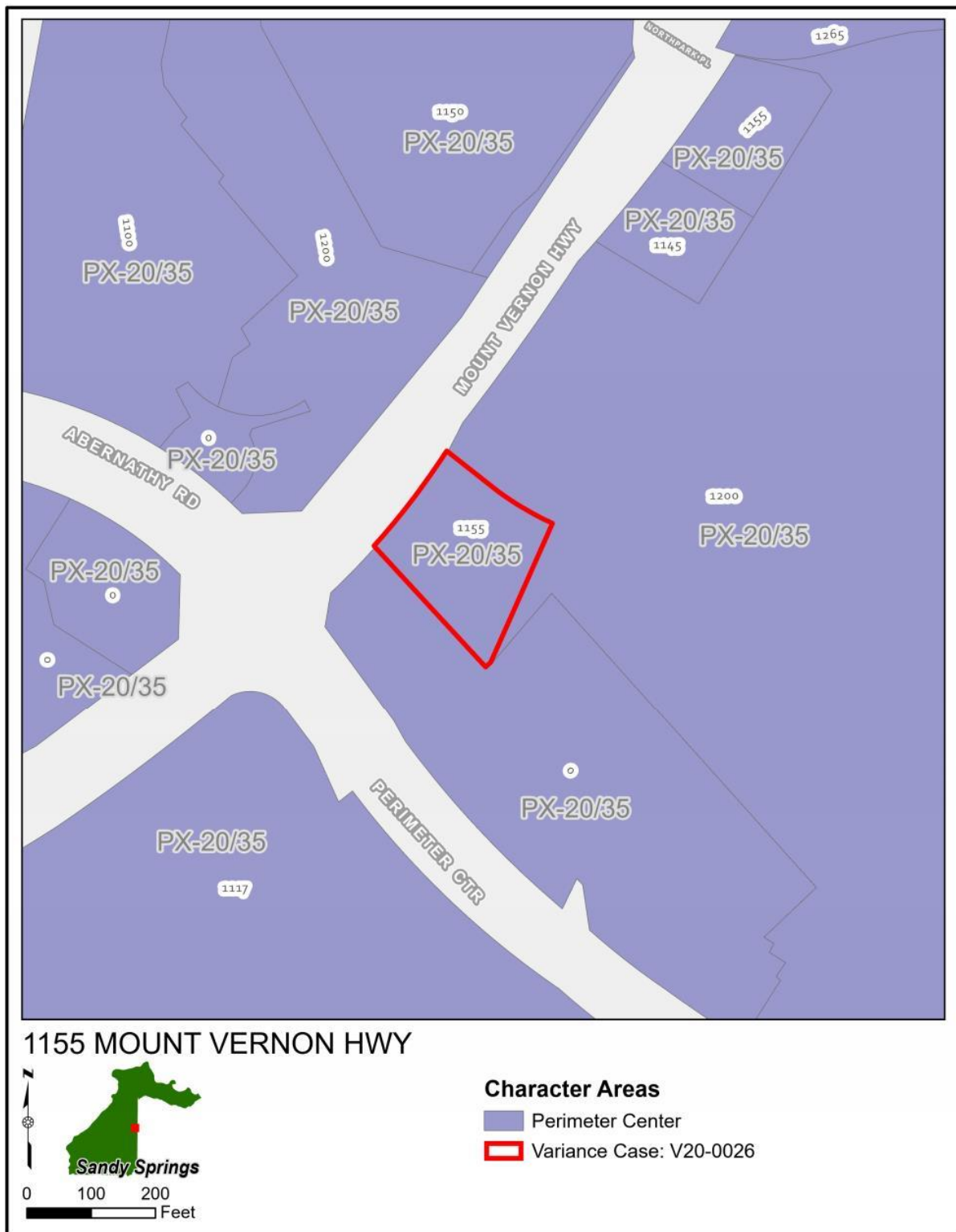
AERIAL IMAGE



ZONING MAP



CHARACTER AREA MAP



VARIANCE CONSIDERATIONS

Per Sec. 11.3.6.G. of the Development Code, the following list of approval criteria for a Variance provides guidance for making decisions on approval:

1. *Variances will only be granted upon showing that:*

a. *The application of this Development Code would create an unnecessary hardship, and not merely an inconvenience to the applicant; or*

Finding: Based on Staff's findings, the application of the Development Code does not create an unnecessary hardship. Per the City Architect and City Engineer, it is possible to meet the ground floor elevation requirements by reassessing the grading plan and parking plan. This property meets the minimum lot width and area standards for the PX20/35 zoning district. It should be noted that a typical development in PX20/35 would need to be at least six (6) stories in height, but because the restaurant would be transferring to a different location on overall developed site, code allows for the specific type of development to keep its single story. Staff believes that the application of the Code presents merely an inconvenience to the applicant, that has more to do with the low intensity of the proposed development for an otherwise very densely zoned site.

b. *There are extraordinary and exceptional conditions due to the size, shape, or topography, which are specific to the subject property and not generally found in similar properties;*

Finding: Staff does not see that there are extraordinary conditions to the site. This property does slope down from Mount Vernon Highway to the rear property line, but the slope is not considered steep. The topography has a very gentle 5% approximate overall slope. Much of the larger parcel that surrounds it is made up of flat, graded parking lots with similar to no slope, servicing a large big box retail strip mall.

2. *Further, the application must demonstrate that:*

a. *Such conditions are not the result of action or inaction of the current property owner; and*

Finding: The current conditions of the property are not the result of action or inaction of the current property owner. However, the applicant is proposing to completely redevelop this property and it is within their ability to develop a grading plan that allows them to meet the ground floor elevation requirements.

b. *The Variance request would provide the minimum relief necessary to make possible the reasonable use of the property; and*

Finding: This variance request does not affect the ability of the applicant to make reasonable use of the property; the site can still be developed with or without the granting of the request.

c. *The Variance request would result in development that is consistent with the general intent of this Development Code, with the Comprehensive Plan policies, and would not be detrimental to the public good, safety and welfare.*

Finding: One of the goals for the Perimeter Center Character Area, as defined on page 114 of the Comprehensive Plan, is to improve the pedestrian experience. Some of the ways the Development Code implements these goals is through requirements like the build-to zone, transparency, and ground floor elevation. Based on the findings from the City Architect and Engineer, the enforcement of the ground floor elevation requirement actually improves pedestrian and ADA access by making the building more accessible from the Mount Vernon sidewalk.

COMMENTS FROM OTHER PARTIES

Sandy Springs Architect & Engineer:

[The applicant] should be able to raise the finished floor level of the new building from the 1100.00 they show on the grading plan (which I assume is correct, rather than the 1099.00 they show on the site plan) to 1101.29 or a little higher and avoid the variance altogether.

The FFE elevation change would mean increasing the grade on the entry drive to 5% or slightly more for its entire run and would also require relocating the accessible parking to be adjacent to the north side of the building. It will also mean regrading the parking bays some.

While the rationale for this variance is accessibility, this plan does not provide for an accessible route from either the MARTA entrance or the accessible parking they show, so the accessible parking needs to be relocated, anyway. An accessible route to the MARTA entrance would be desirable but, in this situation, appears impractical, since it would likely need to cross both MARTA and the shopping center properties. It might be possible if they significantly alter their site to work it out but it would still very likely require an easement on MARTA property.

As I say, these changes will obviate the need for the variance and improve ADA access to the Mount Vernon sidewalk, which Jon and I agree is the more important (and practical) of the two they base the variance rationale on. It will also provide the missing access from their own accessible parking while maintaining the parking count they indicate.

I'm also concerned about the impact on the existing oaks that I note on the attached. I don't know if [the Sandy Springs Arborist] has looked at this. I'm not sure I'm clear on the purpose of the wall and little access way along the west side of the building. It would seem that moving the wall east five or six or so feet and making it a foundation wall for the building would work better and give the trees a better chance. That would need more study and investigation, though.

I know Chick-fil-A works hard to be a good corporate citizen in all regards. A thoughtful and responsive design for this property would set an example as a good corporate citizen working to enhance our built environment.

Sandy Springs Arborist:

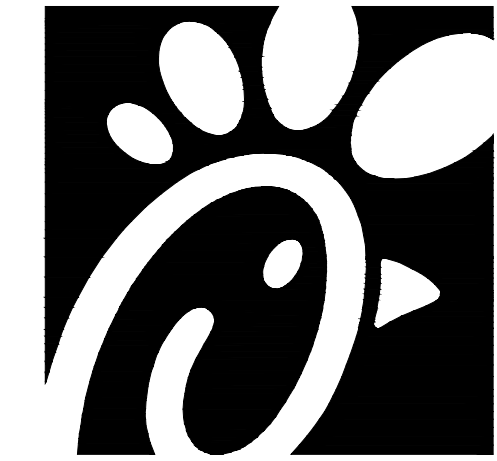
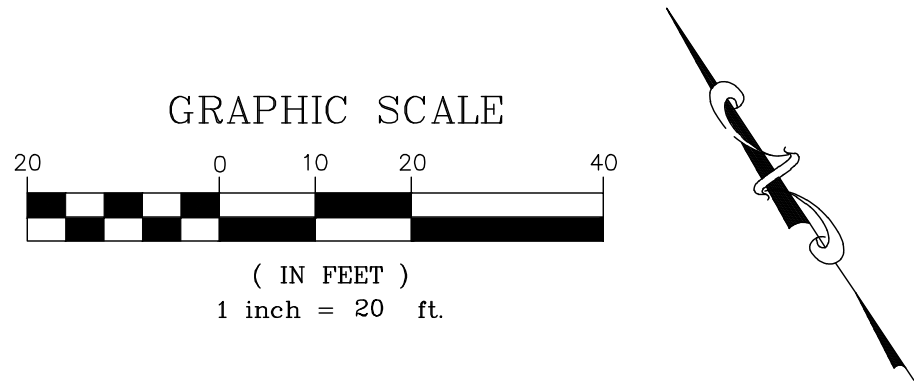
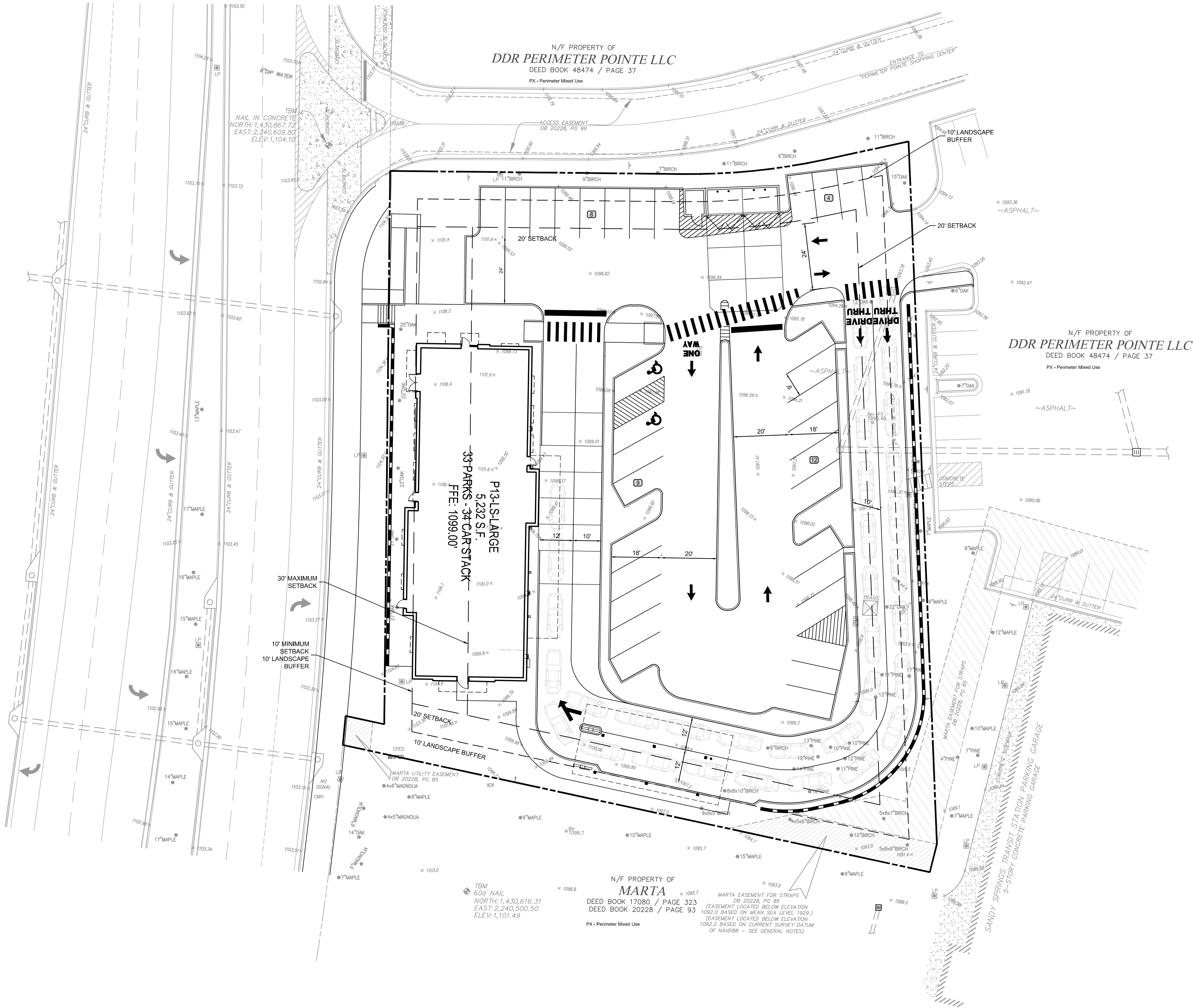
The CRZs for the Oaks would range from 28' to 34' (radius) so the impact shown would almost certainly kill these Oaks, one of which is a Landmark Tree. I agree relocating the wall east would at least give the trees a chance, though they would still be impacted 40% or more. Our threshold for lost/destroyed trees are 25%. There might be an important purpose to the wall that I'm overlooking, but the less impact, the better for these trees.

Correspondence Received:

No public comment was submitted in writing.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT RECOMMENDATION

Following review, and based on the findings, Staff recommends **Denial** of **Variance** V20-0026, a request for a Variance from Sec. 5.4.3.D to allow a ground floor elevation of 3.5 feet. Should the Board of appeals choose to approve the request, staff does not recommend any conditions.



Chick-fil-A
5200 Buffington Road
Atlanta, Georgia 30349-2998

Bowman
CONSULTING
Certification of Anticipated License No. REF 589795
950 North Point Parkway Suite 200
Alpharetta, GA 30005
Phone: (678) 374-6687
www.bowmanconsulting.com
© Bowman Consulting Group, Ltd.

CHICK-FIL-A
RELO - SNELLVILLE FSU
3090 STONE MOUNTAIN HWY
SNELLVILLE, GA 30078

FSR#04608

BUILDING TYPE / SIZE: P13 LS LRG

REVISION SCHEDULE

NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION
-----	------	-------------

CONSULTANT PROJECT # 120005-01-027

PRINTED FOR CIVIL DESIGN

DATE

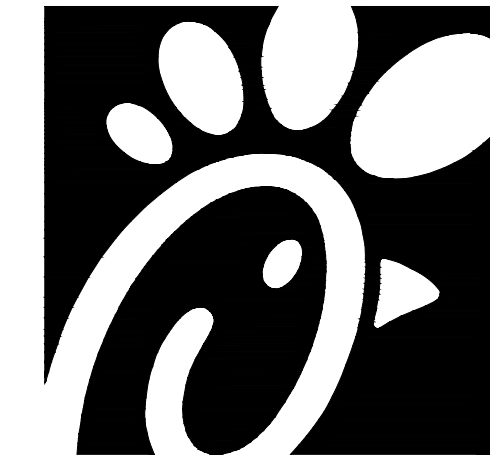
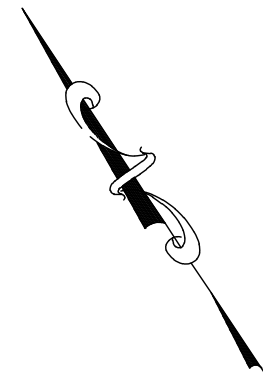
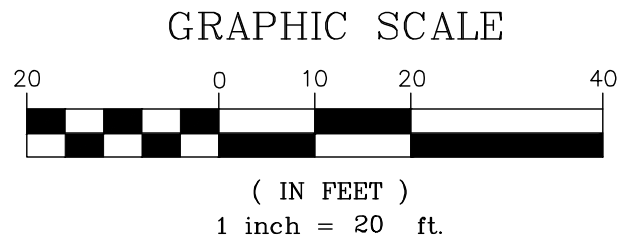
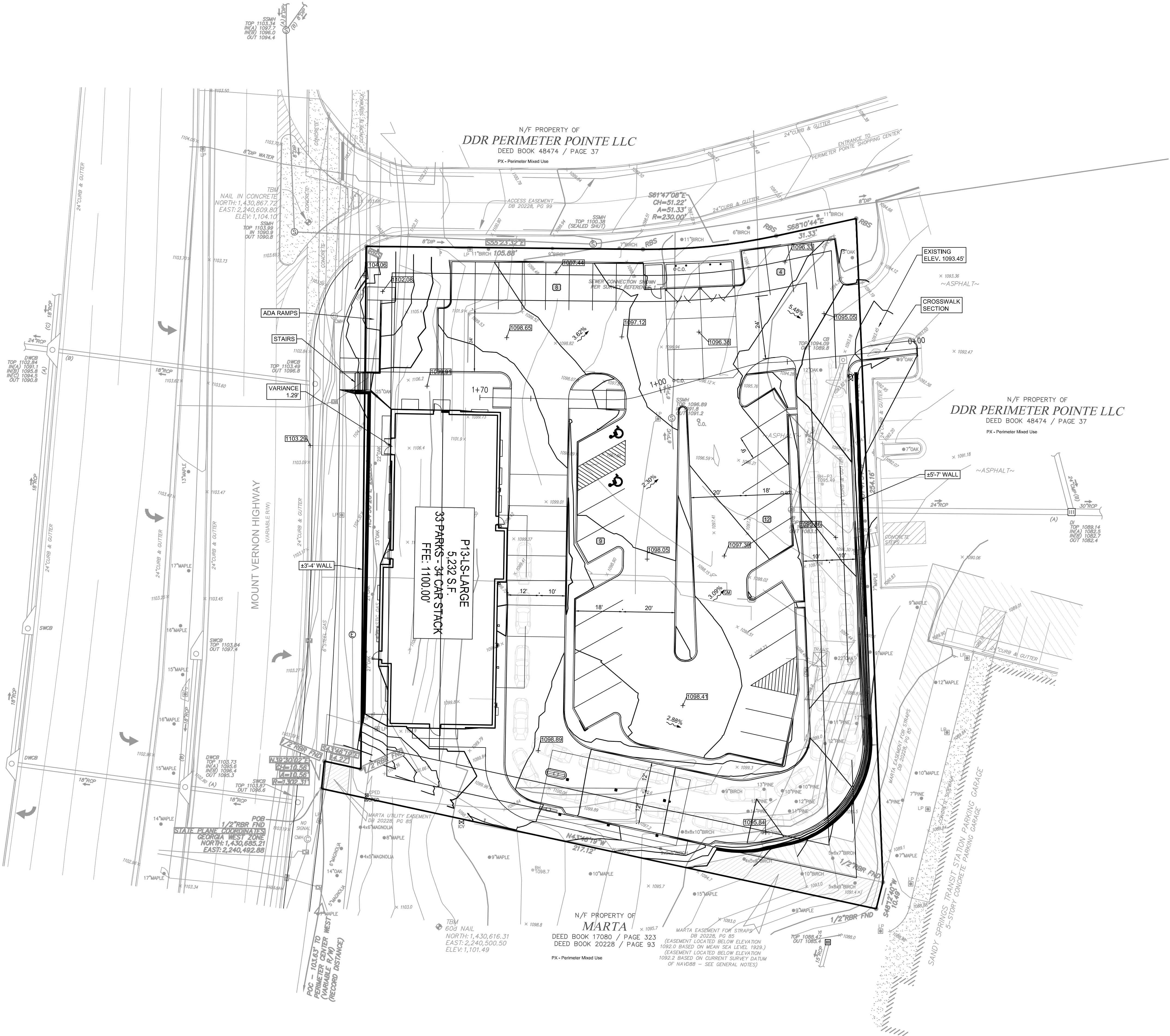
DRAWN BY BCG

Information contained on this drawing and in all digital files produced for above named project may not be reproduced in any manner without express written or verbal consent from authorized project representatives.

SHEET

SHEET NUMBER

SITE PLAN



Chick-fil-A

Chick-fil-A
5200 Buffington Road
Atlanta, Georgia 30349-2998

Bowman
CONSULTING

Confidential Anticipated License No. REF 000795
950 North Point Parkway Suite 200
Alpharetta, GA 30005
Phone: (678) 374-6687
Fax: (678) 374-6688
© Bowman Consulting Group, Ltd.

CHICK-FIL-A
RELO - SNELLVILLE FSU
3090 STONE MOUNTAIN HWY
SNELLVILLE, GA 30078

FSR#04608

BUILDING TYPE / SIZE: P13 LS LRG
REVISION SCHEDULE
NO. DATE DESCRIPTION

CONSULTANT PROJECT # 120005-01-027
PRINTED FOR CIVIL DESIGN
DATE
DRAWN BY BCG

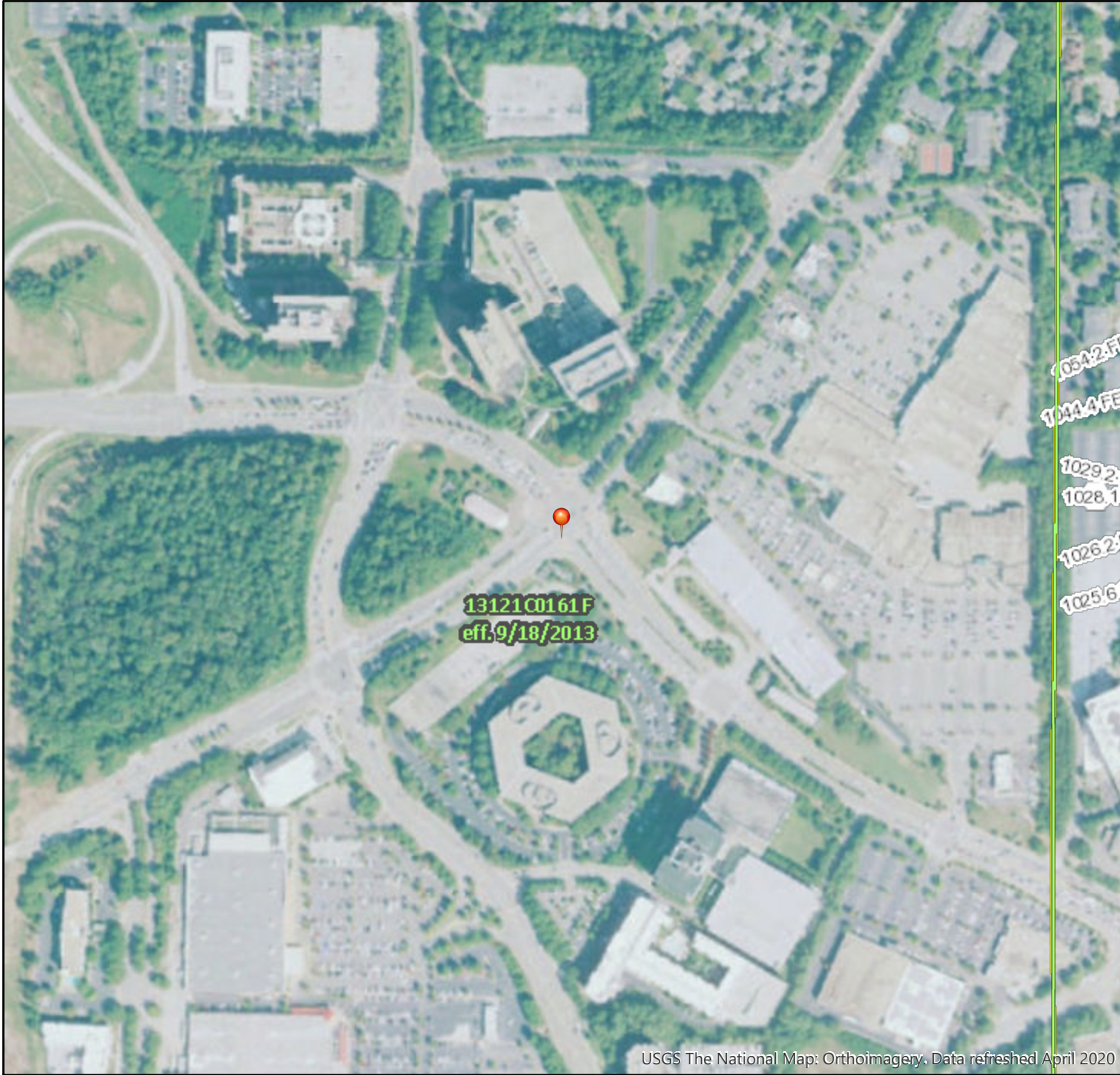
Information contained on this drawing and in all digital files produced for above named project may not be reproduced in any manner without express written or verbal consent from authorized project representatives.
SHEET

SHEET NUMBER
GRADING PLAN

National Flood Hazard Layer FIRMette



84°21'27"W 33°56'12"N



0 250 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 Feet

USGS The National Map: Orthoimagery. Data refreshed April 2020

1:6,000

84°20'49"W 33°55'42"N

Legend

SEE FIS REPORT FOR DETAILED LEGEND AND INDEX MAP FOR FIRM PANEL LAYOUT

SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREAS		Without Base Flood Elevation (BFE) Zone A, V, A99
		With BFE or Depth Zone AE, AO, AH, VE, AR
		Regulatory Floodway
OTHER AREAS OF FLOOD HAZARD		0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard, Areas of 1% annual chance flood with average depth less than one foot or with drainage areas of less than one square mile Zone X
		Future Conditions 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard Zone X
		Area with Reduced Flood Risk due to Levee. See Notes. Zone X
		Area with Flood Risk due to Levee Zone D
OTHER AREAS		NO SCREEN Area of Minimal Flood Hazard Zone X
		Effective LOMRs
		Area of Undetermined Flood Hazard Zone D
GENERAL STRUCTURES		Channel, Culvert, or Storm Sewer
		Levee, Dike, or Floodwall
OTHER FEATURES		20.2 Cross Sections with 1% Annual Chance Water Surface Elevation
		17.5 Cross Sections with 1% Annual Chance Water Surface Elevation
		Coastal Transect
		Base Flood Elevation Line (BFE)
		Limit of Study
		Jurisdiction Boundary
		Coastal Transect Baseline
MAP PANELS		Digital Data Available
		No Digital Data Available
		Unmapped



The pin displayed on the map is an approximate point selected by the user and does not represent an authoritative property location.

This map complies with FEMA's standards for the use of digital flood maps if it is not void as described below. The basemap shown complies with FEMA's basemap accuracy standards

The flood hazard information is derived directly from the authoritative NFHL web services provided by FEMA. This map was exported on 7/3/2020 at 1:02 PM and does not reflect changes or amendments subsequent to this date and time. The NFHL and effective information may change or become superseded by new data over time.

This map image is void if the one or more of the following map elements do not appear: basemap imagery, flood zone labels, legend, scale bar, map creation date, community identifiers, FIRM panel number, and FIRM effective date. Map images for unmapped and unmodernized areas cannot be used for regulatory purposes.



VARIANCE APPLICATION

(Excludes Stream Buffer Variances)

Application Checklist:

Page No.	Item	Completed/ Included in Submittal
1	Project Information Sheet	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2-3	Detailed Process and Instructions	N/A
4-5	Authorization Forms	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6	Letter of Intent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6-7	Variance Analysis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7	Chattahoochee River Corridor Certificate	<input type="checkbox"/> or N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7-8	8½" x 11" copy of Survey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7-8	8½" x 11" copy of Site Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7-8	11" x 17" copy of Survey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7-8	11" x 17" copy of Site Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7-8	Two (2) full-scale copies of Survey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7-8	Two (2) full-scale copies of Site Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7	8½" x 11" copy of Legal Description (must be in Word format)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	11" x 17" copy of Elevations and/or Sections	<input type="checkbox"/> or N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
9	Meeting Schedule	N/A
9	Fee Schedule	N/A
10	Sign Specifications	N/A
9	Fee Payment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	All documents in electronic form (jump drive)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

The Director reserves the right to request additional information deemed necessary to analyze the request. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Planner's initials: _____



SANDY SPRINGS™
GEORGIA

Case No.: _____
Planner's initials: _____

PROJECT INFORMATION SHEET

PROPERTY	Address(es): 1155 Mt. Vernon Highway, Sandy Springs GA 30338	
	Parcel Tax ID: 17 0019 LL1200	
	Land Lot(s): 19 (Fulton County)	Land District(s): 17 (Fulton County)
	Total acreage: 0.68	Council district: 4
	Current zoning: PX (Perimeter Mixed Use/High-Rise)	Current use: Vacant restaurant
	Character Area: Penmeter Center	

APPLICATION	Detailed request (include Ordinance/Code Section No.): Section 5.4.3(D) describes the maximum difference between the ground floor elevation of a proposed building and the existing street elevation to be two feet. A variance is requested to allow an elevation difference of 3.5 feet in order to meet the requirements for providing ADA safe routes for pedestrians from both Mount Vernon Highway and the Sandy Springs transit station to the site, while maintaining safe access grades for vehicles entering and maneuvering the site. The vacant existing building is not compliant with ADA safe route requirements. Additionally, the building is partially hidden due to an elevated landscape berm. This berm will be removed, which will further connect pedestrian street activity with the proposed building.	
	Petitioner: Bowman Consulting (Bridgette Ganter)	
	Petitioner's address: [REDACTED]	
	Phone: [REDACTED]	

OWNER	Property owner: DDR Penmeter Pointe LLC
	Owner's address: [REDACTED]
	Phone: [REDACTED]
	Signature (authorizing initiation of the process): <i>Jordan Z...</i>
	<i>If the property is under contract, provide a copy of the contract</i>

- TO BE FILLED OUT BY P&Z STAFF -

Pre-application meeting date:	Anticipated application date:
Anticipated BOA date:	
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION NEEDED:	

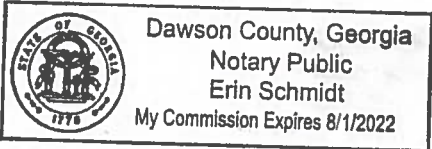


SANDY SPRINGS
GEORGIA

AUTHORIZATION FORM – PART II

- C- If an agent or attorney will represent the owner and/or the applicant:
Fill out the following section and have it notarized.

Agent's name:	Bridgette Ganter
Company name:	Bowman Consulting
Address:	[REDACTED]
City, State, Zip:	[REDACTED]
Email address:	[REDACTED]
Phone number:	[REDACTED]
Agent's signature:	<i>[Signature]</i>
Applicant's signature:	<i>[Signature]</i>


Sworn and subscribed before me this
6 th day of July 20 20
Notary public: <i>[Signature]</i>
Seal:

Commission expires: 8/1/22



SANDY SPRINGS
GEORGIA

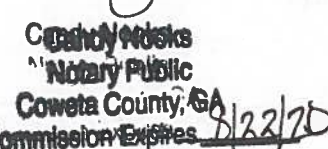
AUTHORIZATION FORM – PART I

A- The property owner must fill out the following section and have it notarized. If a property has multiple owners, each owner must separately fill out a copy of the authorization form.

Owner states under oath that he/she is the owner of the property described in the attached legal description, which is made part of this application.	
Owner's name: <u>DDR Perimeter Pointe, LLC</u>	Sworn and subscribed before me this
Address: [REDACTED]	<u>Jennifer Santelli</u> day of <u>July</u> 20 <u>20</u>
City, State, Zip Code: [REDACTED]	Notary public: <u>Mary Parker</u>
Email address: [REDACTED]	Seal: 
Phone number: [REDACTED]	Commission expires: <u>03/29/2022</u>
Owner's signature: <u>Joshua Fournier</u>	

B- If the applicant is *not* the owner of the subject property:

Fill out the following section, check the appropriate statement, and have it notarized.

Applicant states under oath that:	
<input type="checkbox"/> He/she is the executor or Attorney-in-Fact under 404-765-8000 [Attorney for the owner (attach a copy of the contract)]; or <input type="checkbox"/> He/she has an option to purchase the subject property (attach a copy of the contract); or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> He/she has an estate of years which permits the applicant to apply (attach a copy of the lease)	
Applicant's name: <u>Jenn Santelli</u>	Sworn and subscribed before me this
Company name: <u>Chick-fil-A, Inc.</u>	<u>25TH</u> day of <u>JUNE</u> 20 <u>20</u>
Address: <u>5200 Buffington Road</u>	Notary public: <u>Candy Hooks</u>
City, State, Zip Code: <u>Atlanta, GA 30349</u>	Seal: 
Email address: <u>jenn.santelli@cfacorp.com</u>	Commission expires: <u>8/22/20</u>
Phone number: <u>(770) 324-5282</u>	
Applicant's signature: _____	

Legal Description

Parcel 17 0019 LL1200

1155 Mount Vernon Highway, Sandy Springs 30338

All that tract of parcel of land lying or being in Land Lot 19, 17th District, City of Sandy Springs, Fulton County, Georgia, and being more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at the intersection of the Northeasterly right-of-way of Perimeter Center West (Variable right-of-way) with the Southeasterly right-of-way of Mount Vernon Highway (variable right-of-way); thence along said right-of-way of Mount Vernon Highway, in a Northeasterly direction, a distance of 103.63 feet to a ½ inch rebar found, said point having State Plane Coordinates of North 1,430,685.21, East 2,240,492.88, Georgia West Zone, said point being the True Point of Beginning; thence continuing along said right-of-way, along a curve to the left, said curve having an arc length of 10.56 feet with a radius of 1302.31 feet, being subtended by a chord bearing of North 39 degrees 30 minutes 02 seconds East, a distance of 10.56 feet to a ½ inch rebar found; thence South 43 degrees 46 minutes 19 seconds East, a distance of 14.27 feet to a ½ inch rebar found; thence North 34 degrees 36 minutes 28 seconds East, a distance of 200.00 feet to a 5/8 inch rebar set; thence leaving said right-of-way South 55 degrees 23 minutes 32 seconds East, a distance of 105.88 feet to a 5/8 inch rebar set; thence along a curve to the left, said curve having an arc length of 51.33 feet with a radius of 230.00 feet, being subtended by a chord bearing of South 61 degrees 47 minutes 08 seconds East, a distance of 51.22 feet to a 5/8 inch rebar set; thence South 68 degrees 10 minutes 44 seconds East, a distance of 31.33 feet to a 5/8 inch rebar set; thence South 31 degrees 41 minutes 34 seconds West, a distance of 254.16 feet to a ½ inch rebar found; thence South 48 degrees 12 minutes 40 seconds West, a distance of 10.49 feet to a ½ inch rebar found; thence North 43 degrees 46 minutes 19 seconds West, a distance of 217.12 feet to a ½ inch rebar found on the Southeasterly right-of-way of Mount Vernon Highway, said point being the True Point of Beginning.

Said tract of land contains 1.041 Acres.

VARIANCE ANALYSIS

**Chick-fil-A Perimeter Pointe
1155 Mount Vernon Highway
Sandy Springs, GA 30338**

VARIANCE REQUEST: GROUND FLOOR ELEVATION REQUIREMENT

Section 5.4.3(D) of the City of Sandy Springs Municipal Code requires that the ground floor elevation of proposed buildings in the PX- Perimeter Mixed Use/High-Rise zoning district be within two feet of street level elevation, as measured from the top of the adjacent curb to the top of the finished ground floor at the building main entrance. The proposed site possesses extraordinary and exceptional conditions that prohibit strict adherence to this requirement, due to its size and topography, as well as its proximity to both a street and a transit station.

The proposed site is on a slope that drops 10.4± feet from Mount Vernon Highway street level to the rear of the site where the Sandy Springs Transit Station is located. This drop is traversed over the narrow dimension of the roughly rectangular parcel over a length of approximately 200 feet.

The American Disability Act requires that at least one accessible route within the boundaries of the site be provided from each public transportation stop, accessible parking area, and public street sidewalk to the accessible building entrance it serves. Therefore, the proposed site must provide accessible routes from both the pedestrian sidewalk at Mount Vernon Highway and the Sandy Springs Transit Station.

An accessible route is a continuous, unobstructed path connecting accessible elements and spaces within a site. Sidewalks are considered an accessible element if, among other requirements, the cross-slope of the sidewalk is less than 2 percent and the running slope is less than 5 percent. Curb ramps are allowed as an accessible element if the running slope is not greater than 8.3 percent and if the ramp does not exceed 15 feet. Stairs are not considered an element of an accessible route. These technical requirements are documented in the United States Access Board Technical Requirements, Chapter R3.

The existing site does not provide accessible routes from either the Mount Vernon Highway pedestrian sidewalk or the Sandy Springs Transit Station to the existing building. The applicant is proposing a site design that provides both accessible routes in compliance with American Disability Act.

The proposed site accessible route from the public sidewalk along Mount Vernon Highway includes a series of four curb ramps which allow pedestrians an accessible route from the street to the building, while descending approximately three feet in elevation.

The proposed site accessible route from the Sandy Springs Transit Station to the building is provided through a series of sidewalks, two curb ramps, and three cross walks from the parking lot adjacent to the Sandy Springs Transit Station, while ascending approximately six and half feet to the building.

It is important to note that site crosswalks are provided for safe passage over drive aisles. Best engineering design practices for site drive aisles and adjacent parking areas limit cross-slope to less than 3 percent. Additionally, drive aisle areas which provide dumpster access are generally held to a cross-slope of less than 2 percent to prevent tipping during emptying process.

Alternative designs were evaluated:

1. Raise the ground floor elevation of the building to within two feet of street level.

Dimensionally the site does not provide the necessary distance to provide acceptable slopes for a compliant accessible route from the building to the Sandy Springs Transit Station. Further, the cross-slopes of the drive aisles exceed accepted engineering practical limits. In addition to non-compliance with the American Disability Act, this solution does not meet the general purpose and intent of the Development Code to promote walkable centers and safe pedestrian environments.

2. Locate the building at the south side of the parcel to provide greater distance to safely descend in elevation, while maintaining accessible routes.

In this design, the building would no longer be oriented along Mount Vernon Highway and a drive-through aisle would be located between the building and Mount Vernon Highway. This solution is disallowed under the Urban General Road Frontage guidelines and again, does not meet the general purpose and intent of the Development Code to promote walkable centers and safe pedestrian environments.

Neither alternative design is in accord with the purpose and intent of the Developments Code. Therefore, the applicant is requesting a variance of $1.29\pm$ feet to allow the ground floor elevation of the building to be constructed $3.29\pm$ feet below street elevation at the main entrance.

The physical conditions (parcel depth and topography) and site location (adjacent to two pedestrian routes) necessitating this variance are not the result of the action or inaction of the current property owner.

The applicant is requesting the minimum relief necessary for the proposed development. A ground floor elevation variance of $1.29\pm$ feet is the minimum requirement to grade the site in a manner that provides compliance for both accessible routes.

Since the proposed design provides safe and compliant pedestrian routes, as well as an enhanced pedestrian experience by orienting the building in line with and as close as possible with the Mount Vernon Highway pedestrian sidewalk, it is believed that this design supports the purpose and intent of the Development Code to promote walkable centers and safe pedestrian environments.



July 6, 2020

Ms. Madalyn Smith
City of Sandy Springs
Planning and Zoning
1 Galambos Way
Sandy Springs, GA 30328

**RE: Perimeter Pointe Chick-fil-A
1155 Mount Vernon Highway
Sandy Springs, GA 30338
Letter of Intent – Variance Request (Height and Mass – Ground Floor Elevation)**

Ms. Smith,

We are working with Chick-fil-A on the development of a new Chick-fil-A restaurant to be located at 1155 Mount Vernon Highway in Sandy Springs.

The site is currently zoned PX – Perimeter Mixed Use/High-Rise and is developed with a vacant restaurant. Chick-fil-A is proposing the construction of an approximately 5,000± SF restaurant with associated parking and utilities. The proposed restaurant will have 65-70 employees and serve an average of 900 customers in store daily. The hours of operation are 6:00AM to 10:00PM, Monday through Saturday.

Description of Requested Variance:

Section 5.4.3(D) of the municipal code requires that the ground floor elevation of the proposed building be within two feet of the street level elevation, as measured from the top of the adjacent curb to the top of the finished ground floor at the building main entrance. The applicant is requesting a variance of 1.29± feet to allow the ground floor elevation of the building to be constructed 3.29± feet below street elevation at the main entrance.

This site is unique in that an accessible ADA pedestrian route must be maintained from both the front (street) side and the back (Sandy Springs Transit Station) side of the site. In addition, there is a drop in elevation of 10.4± feet from the street to the rear of the site. A variance for additional ground floor elevation is requested to provide the required accessible ADA pedestrian routes within the constraints of the site topography.

Alternatively, siting the building to align with the southern property border, farthest from the access, allows additional distance over which to level the slopes of the accessible routes. However, in this alternative design, the building and main entrance are not aligned with the street and it is necessary to route the drive-through between the street and the building. Since this alternative does not reflect the pedestrian-oriented intent of the code, we are requesting a ground floor elevation variance for the proposed design, which provides a safe, compliant, and pedestrian-oriented experience.

We appreciate your consideration of this variance application. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at [REDACTED]

Sincerely,



Bridgette Ganter
Project Manager
Bowman Consulting